

Message Text

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ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 EB-03 XMB-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2279

INFO USDOC WASHDC

TREASURY WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1465

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS EX-IM BANK

EX-IM BANK FOR CHAIRMAN CASEY

COMMERCE FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DOWNEY

TREASURY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY PARSKY

SECSTATE FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, RO

SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF EX-IM BANK OPERATIONS IN ROMANIA

REF: BUCHAREST 0859

1. AS DISCUSSED WITH EX-IM BANK CHAIRMAN CASEY DURING HIS JANUARY VISIT AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DOWNEY DURING HIS IN FEBRUARY, EX-IM CREDITS ARE ESSENTIAL TO PROMOTION OF OUR EXPORTS TO ROMANIA. MY CONVERSATION WITH BANK OF FOREIGN TRADE PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF ROMANIAN SECTION OF JOINT ECONOMIC COUNCIL (REFTEL) SHOWED SUSPENSION OF EX-IM CREDITS UNDER TRADE ACT COULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE US-ROMANIAN TRADE RIGHT NOW, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF STAGE

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OF ROMANIAN PLANNING FOR NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

2. NOW THAT TRADE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED AND WILL BE SENT TO CONGRESS SHORTLY, I WANT TO REITERATE MY VERY STRONG CONVICTION THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 402 OF THE ACT, EX-IM CREDITS CAN AND SHOULD BE PROMPTLY REINSTITUTED FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL SUBMISSION. MY UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN THAT DURING THE COURSE OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE TRADE AGREEMENT, CONSULTATIONS WERE ALSO TO BE CONDUCTED ON THE TIMING OF THE LIFTING OF THE EX-IM CREDIT SUSPENSION. I HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED THAT THERE WERE ANY NEGATIVE SIGNALS WHICH WOULD ARGUE AGAINST THE EARLY LIFTING OF THE SUSPENSION.

3. HEAVY MACHINE BUILDING MINISTER AVRAM'S VISIT TO THE STATES THESE NEXT TWO WEEKS COULD LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL ORDERS IN A PRIORITY AREA. I TRUST THE NECESSARY IMPETUS CAN BE GIVEN BY ANNOUNCING THE LIFTING OF THE SUSPENSION IN TIME TO DO SOME GOOD DURING AVRAM'S TALKS.

4. REQUEST EARLY INFORMATION REGARDING WASHINGTON INTENTIONS ON THIS QUESTION.
BARNES

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